

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

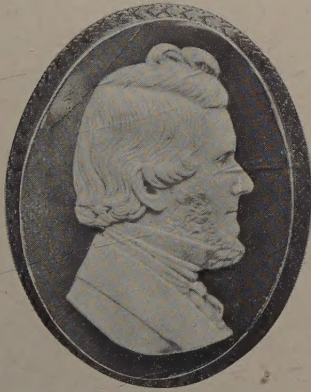
---

Vol. XXII

October, 1929

No. 4

---



Cameo portrait of James S.  
Lincoln, cut by Annable.

Issued Quarterly

---

63 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

## CONTENTS

---

	<i>Page</i>
New Light on Roger Williams' Life in England By James E. Ernst.....	97
Samuel and Gideon Casey, Silversmiths By William Davis Miller.....	103
Notes .....	110
Charles A. Calder Pewter Collection.....	111
Vigneron Genealogy By William Vigneron .....	112
The Big Gale at Block Island By George R. Burgess .....	118
George Annable, Sculptor By Howard M. Chapin .....	119

RHODE  
HISTORICAL



ISLAND  
SOCIETY

## COLLECTIONS

---

Vol. XXII

October, 1929

No. 4

---

CLAUDE R. BRANCH, *President*  
HOWARD W. PRESTON, *Secretary*

GILBERT A. HARRINGTON, *Treasurer*  
HOWARD M. CHAPIN, *Librarian*

---

The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or the opinions of contributors.

---

### New Light on Roger Williams' Life in England\*

By JAMES E. ERNST

In the Egerton Manuscripts, Letters, 2643, ff 3 and 5, now in the British Museum, are two letters written by Roger Williams to Lady Joan Barrington, of Hatfield Priory, co. Essex. These letters were first mentioned by George A. Lowndes, Esq., of Barrington Hall, co. Essex, in 1889, and published in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, July, 1889, pages 316-320, by Henry F. Waters. In discussing the effect of the letters on the relations between Mr. Williams and Lady Barrington, Mr. Lowndes remarks that in letters subsequent to Williams' letter of May 2, 1629, both Sir William

---

\*See R. I. H. S. C. XVI, 78, for an account of Roger Williams' early life.



Masham and Lady Masham, nee Barrington, beg Lady Joan to forgive Mr. Williams for what he wrote in his letter of May 2nd. I have searched the Egerton MSS Letters and have found seven references to Mr. Williams, chaplain to Sir William Masham, the son-in-law of Lady Barrington, in Manuscripts 2645-2650.

None of these references are of great length. They are made by the members of Lady Barrington's family. When viewed in relation to Williams' career and the other already known data of this period, these references become quite significant. They indicate his place of residence during 1629 and 1630, and make more clear the development of his ideas for which he later became most noteworthy.

Only one of the letters is dated. Another letter can be approximately dated by its reference to the marriage of Roger Williams. The other five letters are not dated. Furthermore the subject-matter is of such a general nature that only a probable date can be assigned. Neither the order of the letters as arranged by the British Museum, nor the numbers or dates found on the back of the letters are in any way trustworthy guides. As a result of all this, my arrangement of these letters is merely the order which I consider the most probable.

1. Egerton MSS (British Museum) 2645, f 17. Robert Barrington, son of Sir Francis and Lady Joan Barrington, writes from London to his mother at Hatfield, Broad-oaks, co. Essex. He is a member of the famous Parliament of 1629 which is now in session. His brother Sir Thomas Barrington, of Barrington Hall, also M. P., from Essex, is a leader of the popular party against the presumptions of King Charles I, in both church and state. (Lowndes in *Essex Archaeological Society*, Transactions, New Series, Vol. II, pp. 3-64; Appendix of *Seventh Report of the Hist. MSS. Comm.*; Montague: *A Political History of England*, 1603-1660.) The letter is dated from London, February 20, 1629.

"Madam

It was very late before I knew of Mr. Williams going downe, yet I canot let him pass without troubling you with a few lynes." Then he refers to much news, foreign and domestic, and the troubles in Parliament with Charles I. Lady Joan was always deeply interested in affairs of state. "Mr. Williams who walked the Citty wilbe able to say more than I can who have not the least tyme to be from the business of this house which, if ever than now, doth require all possible dilligence. He can partly tell you what late rubbs we have met with, to our great distraction."

The subjects brought up during this session, that needed all his "dilligence" were popery, Arminianism, church ceremonies, laying of taxes without consent of Parliament, pardoning of bishops with Arminian leanings, and censuring of Bishops Laud, Montaigne, etc., and other affairs involving the royal prerogative. According to the Charter House Records Roger Williams had just recently left Cambridge University, probably at the end of the scholastic year, January, 1629. Already in February, 1629, Roger Williams is closely associated with the leaders of the popular movement and is credited with more detailed news of the movement than a leading M. P.

2. *Ibid.* 2650, f 289. The letter is undated. Lady Elizabeth Masham, daughter of Lady Joan Barrington, and wife of Sir William Masham, of Oates, co. Essex, writes to her mother who is residing at Harrow in hopes of recovering her health. Roger Williams is chaplain in the household of Sir William Masham. The letter was written during the harvest season, probably the latter part of August or early September, 1629. In a postscript Lady Masham writes:



"Mr. Williams hath bin very weak of a burning feavor & soe continueth, but I hope there is some amendment."

3. *Ibid.* 2650, f 318. The letter is undated. Sir William Masham writes from Essex to Lady Barrington, still at Harrow. The harvesting of the crops has been much delayed on account of bad weather. Sir William fears the crops will be greatly damaged as a result. From the subject-matter I have concluded that it was written about the same time as f 289, by Lady Masham—the harvest time of 1629 in the latter part of August or early September.

Roger Williams had written two letters to Lady Barrington in the spring of 1629: the first, a proposal for the hand of her niece; the second, a rather heated and over-zealous sermon, the product of a disappointed lover. The second letter of May 2, so angered Lady Joan that she refused to see Mr. Williams. Sir William in this letter would persuade her to forgive the youthful chaplain and again see him.

"Mr. Williams hath bene very ill of a feavor, though now (god be prayسد) he is on the mending [sum]: in the depth of his sickness (when he and we all tooke him for a man of another world, he desired me to remember his humble and affectionate service to you. And to let you know from him as from a dying man that what he wrote to your Ladiship was out of depth of conscience and desire of your spirituall good, which is most pretious to him; these might have bene his last words, so give your good assurance of the truth of them; and as I am now much more confirmed in my former mind, that what he did proceeded out of love and conscience; so I doubt not but you are well persuaded of him, and will receive him into your former favor, and good opinion: A kind word from you would much refresh him in this his weake estate. So desiring your good prayers for him and us, and for a [heavenly] use of all those mendings, with our humble desire and love."

4. *Ibid.* 2645, f 84. An undated letter written by Lady Masham to her mother at Harrow. In the MSS collection, it is placed between letters written November 13 and 19, 1629. In the letters about this time, Lady Masham talks much about possible husbands for her daughter "Jug" who was married sometime in the spring of 1630. In a postscript she writes: "Mr. Williams desires to have his best services remembred to you."

5. *Ibid.* 2650, f 300. This undated letter presents a difficult problem.

Lady Barrington is still at Harrow, not yet fully recovered from her illness. Sir William Masham had sent some ripe cherries from Hatfield. In this letter Lady Masham refers to the cherries with the hope that they have been received and eaten with relish. This sending of cherries would point to the letter having been written in June or early July, which is the cherry season. If this is so, then it was written in 1630. It could not have been written in 1629, because in June and July, 1629, Lady Barrington had not yet intimated her willingness to forgive Mr. Williams, (see folios already quoted). But now Lady Barrington has had a change of heart.

"I am very glad you have overcome your pashon & will se Mr. Williams. It wilbe to your grete honer to pass by ofencis & if we consider how much god forgives us, we canot but forgive such as ofend us, especialy it being the condition god makes to forgive us if we forgive others. He tooke noe unkindnes that I colde perceave for your not seing him; he did not speak a word of it till I asked him. He wilbe very glad to atend you as sone as he can but it wilbe longe [delayed] by reson of much busynes which he hath, both he & we will not sease to pray dailie for" your Ladyship's health.

6. *Ibid.* 2650, f 314. The letter is undated. Sir William addresses his letter to Lady Barrington, still resid-



ing at Harrow. From the subject-matter of the letter, it seems to have been written about the same time as that by Lady Masham, f 300. This note is inserted at the very top of the first page, in a cramped style:

"I am right glad to heare of your inclinations to Mr. Williams, who [ ] as to his owne soul a good man, is a good friend."

These references to Roger Williams in the Egerton MSS Letters seem to indicate, beyond little doubt, that Mr. Williams spent the years 1629 and 1630, in Essex, in the household of Sir William Masham, at Oates. From them may be drawn the following inferences: (1) That Roger Williams came to the Masham household as their chaplain directly after leaving Cambridge University, sometime in January, 1629, at the close of the collegiate year. (2) That already in February, 1629, he was deeply interested in the political and religious question of the year. (3) That he was intimately associated with the leaders of the popular party (so-called Puritans). (4) That he is accredited by one of the leading members of Parliament with an unusual knowledge of the intricacies of the political questions, more widely acquainted with the popular movement than one of the leaders of the House. (5) That Roger Williams was dangerously ill of a fever in the harvest time of 1629. (6) That at this time Lady Barrington had not yet forgiven him for his impetuous letter of May 2, 1629. (7) That Sir William and Lady each begged her forgiveness, also enclosing the entreaties of Roger Williams. (8) That Lady Barrington was finally persuaded to relent and consent to again receive Roger Williams. (9) That Mr. Williams did not leave the household of Sir William Masham soon after the letter of May, 1629. (10) And that, if the letters quoted from the MSS 2650, f 300 and f 314, were written in the spring of 1630, as I feel certain they were, then Roger Williams was still with the Masham family in the early summer of



1630. All of which would lead one to conclude that Roger Williams remained at Oates until his departure for America in the latter part of 1630.

JAMES E. ERNST

Tavistock Square, London.

September 19, 1929.

## Samuel and Gideon Casey, Silversmiths

By WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER

Since the publication of the paper concerning Samuel Casey in the *Rhode Island Historical Collections* for January, 1928, there have been brought to my attention further examples of his work which evidence the very excellent craftsmanship of this silversmith of Little Rest. It is therefore with the idea of supplementing this previous paper that the following notes have been made.

One point of value has been proven by the examination of this silver. It has been already advanced as a probability that, for the smaller pieces of silver, Casey used the mark S:C, in an oval, instead of his usual mark, S:CASEY, in a rectangle (*vide The Silversmiths of Little Rest*). The marks on the salt and salt spoon now establish this to be a fact, as the salt bears the mark, S:CASEY. and the spoon the small mark, S:C. This small mark is also used on the tongs and the castor and as all these pieces have remained in the same family since purchase with the tradition that they were the work of Samuel Casey, further proof would appear to be uncalled for.

Little is known of Samuel Casey's younger brother, Gideon, and silver bearing his mark would appear to be of considerable rarity. He was born, probably in Newport, in the year 1726, moving to Exeter with his family where he is believed to have commenced his trade. He later came to South Kingstown where, in 1753, he entered into partnership with his brother near Little Rest. Ten years

later this partnership was dissolved and Gideon removed to Warwick, after which date he disappears from the records as completely as did his brother after his fortunate release from the Little Rest jail in 1770. He was twice married, first to Jane Roberts in 1747, and having been divorced, married Elizabeth Johnson in 1760.

It is probable that Gideon Casey never executed any work of outstanding merit and that most of his best work was done as an assistant to his more able brother. His mark is given by Ensko (*American Silversmiths and Their Marks*), as G:CASEY, but from the spoon illustrated here it would seem that he used a smaller mark, similar to that used by Samuel Casey.

This spoon is from the collection of John Norris, Esq., of Philadelphia and it is believed by him to be the work of Gideon Casey, and the circumstances of the original ownership would seem to substantiate this belief. The inscription on the reverse of the stem and the date, 1804, can not be relied upon to place the date of moulding, as this Eliza Swain was the daughter of an Eliza Swain to whom the initials on the face of the stem might be attributed; and the spoon a possible gift from mother to daughter.

CASTOR. Vase shaped with high dome; lid pierced and decorated with oak leaves and lattice design; moulded finial; spreading moulded base. H.  $5\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Inscription: None.

Mark: S:C (Roman capitals), in oval, on side.

SALT. Bowl with moulded edge and three moulded feet. H.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in., D.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Inscription: P H (shaded capitals), on base.

Mark: S:CASEY (Roman capitals), on base.

SPOON. Shovel shaped bowl with scalloped edge; rounded, up-curved tip; slight ridge. L. 4 in.

Inscription: P H (shaded capitals), on reverse of stem.



CASEY. SALT AND SPOON BY SAMUEL CASEY



Mark: S:C (Roman capitals), in oval, on reverse of handle.

These three pieces, i. e., the castor, salt and spoon, were the property of Penelope Hazard, daughter of Thomas Hazard of South Kingstown. Penelope Hazard married Judge William Potter on November 18, 1750. The silver has remained in the Hazard family and is reproduced through the courtesy of the present owner, Mrs. Martin Knapp, of Syracuse, N. Y.

TEAPOT. Inverted pear-shape; low domed lid with wood and moulded silver finial; engraved border around top; curved spout, with design in relief; flaring moulded foot; wood handle. H.  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in., D.  $4\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Inscription: A\*R (shaded block letters), and the Robinson arms, on side.

Mark: S:CASEY (Roman capitals), in rectangle, on base.

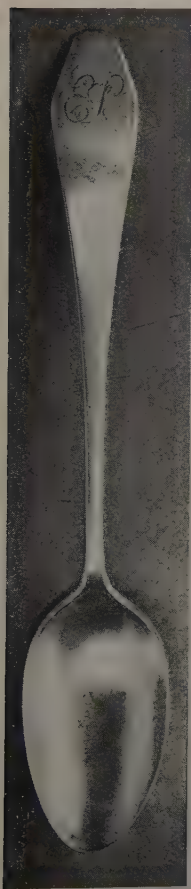
This teapot was the property of Abigail Robinson, daughter of Deputy-Governor William and Abigail (Gardiner) Robinson. She was born December 19, 1732, married John Wanton of Newport on August 10, 1752, and died March 3, 1754. The teapot is now the property of Mrs. Everitte St. John Chaffee of Providence, through whose courtesy it is reproduced.

SPOON. Coffin shaped stem; down-curved tip. L.  $7\frac{3}{8}$  in.

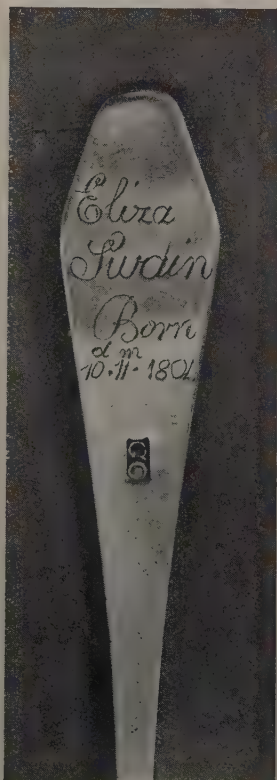
Inscription: E S (script), on face of stem, and *Eliza*  
*d m*  
*Swain Born 10 - 11 - 1804* on reverse of stem.

Mark: G:C (Roman capitals), in lozenge, on reverse of handle.

From the collection of John Norris, Esq.



SPOON BY GIDEON CASEY



MARK OF GIDEON CASEY

TONGS. Scissor type; scroll design handles and arms; shell tips. L.  $4\frac{5}{8}$  in.

Inscription: T H (shaded capitals), with engraved scroll design.

Mark: S:C (Roman capitals), in oval, on each arm.

The original owner was Thomas Hazard (1704-1787) of South Kingstown, the father of Penelope Hazard. Reproduced through the courtesy of the present owner, Mrs. S. Foster Hunt, of Providence.



TONGS BY SAMUEL CASEY





*Owned by Mrs. Everette S. Chaffee.*

TEAPOT BY SAMUEL CASEY

## Notes

Two specimens of early Rhode Island silverware were illustrated in the July, 1929, issue of *Antiques*, p. 19.

A genealogical article on the Richmond family by Henry I. Richmond appeared in the September, 1929, issue of *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*.

The following persons have been elected to membership in the Society:

MR. RAYMOND BUSS	MR. GEORGE H. RAYMOND
MR. JOHN R. P. FOSTER	MR. DANA RICE
MR. WILLIAM C. FRY	MRS. FRANK J. SPRAGUE
MISS GRACE E. MACDONALD	MR. F. L. TITSWORTH

Mr. James E. Ernst, who is at work on a biography of Roger Williams, has just discovered in the British Museum several letters containing contemporary references to Roger Williams which were unknown to previous students of Williams' life. Mr. Ernst has very kindly contributed this information to the Society and an article, including not only these items but also his illuminating comments thereon, appears in this issue of the *Collections*.

The series of articles on coats of arms used in Rhode Island in Colonial times was concluded in the July issue of the *Collections*. This list includes all the coat of arms of which evidence of use in Rhode Island before 1776 has been submitted to the editor. If any one knows of any other coats of arms used in Rhode Island before 1776 and will submit to the editor conclusive evidence of such use, the arms and evidence will be recorded and registered in a subsequent issue of the *Collections*.

The Charles A. Calder Memorial Collection of Rhode Island Pewter which was recently presented to the Society by Mrs. Calder has been placed in one of the alcoves in the portrait gallery. An account of this collection appeared

THE CHARLES A. CALDER MEMORIAL  
COLLECTION OF RHODE ISLAND PEWTER



THE CHARLES A. CALDER MEMORIAL COLLECTION OF  
RHODE ISLAND PEWTER

*Photo by Avery E. Lord.*



in the *Providence Journal* of June 16, 1929, and a picture of it appears in this issue of the *Collections*. Mr. Calder's papers on Rhode Island pewter were printed in the *Collections* for July, 1924, and April, 1926.

## Vigneron Genealogy

By WILLIAM VIGNERON, with additions

*Vigneron Genealogy, beginning with Norbert Felicien Vigneron, M.D., a French Huguenot who came to Newport, R. I.*

From old documents written by my Great Uncle William Vigneron, who went to France for the express purpose of making enquiries concerning his ancestry (with later additions by Harriet Dayton Skinner).

---

In the Parish of La Ventie, Diocese of Arras, Province of Artois, (Now, Department Pas de Calais.) lived Anthony Vigneron and Anne Theresa de Beaussart; my great-great-great grandparents.

Their son

My great great Grandfather, Norbert Felicien Vigneron, (Physician) was probably born on the 2nd day of June, in the year 1670.

Proved as follows:

"Extrait des Registres de l'Eglise paroissiale de la Ventie, Diocese d'Arras, Province d'Artois.

"Anno 1670 Die 2nd Junii baptisatus est Norbertus Felicianus Vigneron filius Antonii et Anne Theresae De Beaussart quem e sacro fonte susceperunt M. Martinus Libertus Sacellarus et Maria Margarita De Beaussart. Collationé est trouvé conforme à l'originale 25 Aout.

Desgardins

Curé Doyen de la Ventie."

(This is a copy of the original Document) signed

Wm. Rogers Taylor.

He had a sister and a brother, as may be proved by the registry of their deaths.

“Estrait des Registres de l'Eglise paroissiale de la Ventie, Diocese d'Arras, Province d'Artois. L'an mil sept cents cinquante trois, le Vingt-huit de Mars, est decedé en cette paroisse de La Ventie, Marie Magdalene Vigneron, agée de quatre-vingt-deux ans, ou environ, fille des feus Antoine et Anne Therese de Beaussart laquelle je sousigné eu inhumée le landemain dans la Cimitière de cette paroisse, avec les ceremonies accoutumées en presence de Jean François Caulier, clerc, maitre d'ecole de cette paroisse, et de Charles Joseph Petit, Valet d'Eglise, lesquels ont signé avec moi comme s'ensuit.

Est signé J. F. Caulier

C. J. Petit

Le Clerc et servant

Collationé et trouvé conforme à l'originale 25 Aoust 1780.

Desgardins

Curé Doyen de la Ventie.

L'An mil sept cents cinquante huit, le quatrième de Juin, est decedé, et le landemain fut intumé dans la Cimitière de cette paroisse, avec les ceremonies accoutumées d l'Eglise. Philippe Vigneron, agé de quatre-vingt quatre ans, ou environ, fils des Antoine et Anne Therese de Beaussart. Furent present a l'interment Jean François Caulier, clerc et maitre d'ecole, et Nich-Joseph Petit fossier de cette paroisse, lesquels ont signé

Ont signé

N. J. Petit

J. F. Caulier

Degurson contre

Collationé et trouvé conforme à l'originale 25 Aoust 1786.

Desgardins

Curé Doyen de la Ventie.

Le Patron de cette paroisse est Saint Vaast”

The preceding extracts are a true copy from the original Document.

(signed) Wm Rogers Taylor.

By comparison of dates, it may be seen that Marie Mag<sup>ne</sup> Vigneron was probably born in 1671 and Philippe Vigneron in 1674.

1. Norbert Felician Vigneron came to North America, and resided at Newport, R. I., where he carried on the practice of Physic. Norbert, son of Antoine and Anne Therese de Beaussart of France, was born 2nd of June 1670; died (and buried) at Newport, Tuesday, Feb'y 7th 1764, aged 93 years, 8 mos. and 5 days. When 40 years old he married Susanna, daughter of John and Joanna Pierce, (all of Newport, R. I.) born 1706, died 1751, aged 45 years, by whom he had issue:

2. i Charles Anthony

3. ii Stephen

4. iii Charlotte, died young.

5. iv Antyrese (quere Anne Therese), died young.

2. Charles Anthony Vigneron<sup>1</sup> succeeded his father in the practice of Physic: born in 1717, died of Small Pox at New York (after being inoculated) on the 10th of November 1772, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past nine o'clock P. M. in the 56th year of his age (was buried in Parson Gano's burial ground, St. Paul's church yard, New York.)<sup>2</sup> When 21 years old he married Hannah, daughter of Jonathan and Mary Irish (all of Little Compton) born in 1725, died

---

<sup>1</sup>Anthony or Antoine Vigneron served as "doctor" on the privateer Caesar in the Louisbourg expedition of 1745, and as surgeon on the privateer Prince Frederick in 1746. Compare Newport Historical Magazine III, 95, where the Louisbourg service is credited to Stephen. It seems probable that it was her uncle Anthony and not her uncle Stephen to whom she meant to refer.

<sup>2</sup>See N. H. M. III, 95, for location of Vigneron's house at the northeast corner of Marlborough and Farewell Streets, Newport. See Newport Mercury for Nov. 23, 1778, for obituary notice, where the name is spelled Wigneron.



July 7th 1776 of putrid fever, in the 52 year of her age; buried in the Friend's burial ground, Newport.

By who he had issue:

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 6. i Norbert  | 11. vi Susy      |
| 7. ii Charles | 12. vii John     |
| 8. iii Mary   | 13. viii William |
| 9. iv Stephen | 14. ix Walter    |
| 10. v Stephen | 15. x Walter     |
| 16. xi Susy   |                  |

3. Stephen sailed in a ship commanded by one Capt. Benittland<sup>3</sup> as surgeon of her, whose ship was lost at sea; this was in the war against the French.

6. Norbert, born in 1739, was drowned on the back of Long Island, Satanket South, County of Suffolk, Dec. 25, 1761, in the 23rd year of his age. He was returning from a voyage with Capt. Wood Morris.

7. Charles, born 1742, by occupation a joiner; died at Newport with the Yellow fever which he caught on a prison ship at said Newport Nov. 25, 1778, in the 37th year of his age. He married Mary, daughter of Peter and Thankful Taylor, all of Newport, and had issue:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 17. i Susy     | 20. iv Hannah  |
| 18. ii Norbert | 21. v Charles  |
| 19. iii Mary   | 22. vi Stephen |

and five others (23-27) who died without names.

19. Mary, my Grandmother, born at Little Compton 7th of July 1744; died at Newport (was buried in the Friend's Burial ground) at midnight on Wednesday 11th of Feb'y 1835, aged 90 years, 7 mos., 4 days. She married James,

---

<sup>3</sup>Captain William Bennettland commanded the privateer Phoenix in 1744, and if Stephen Vigneron was lost at sea at this time, he could not have been at Louisbourg. Compare note 1.

my grandfather, son of the before mentioned Peter and Thankful Taylor (Mary Vigneron was second cousin one removed to James Taylor.) He was born in 1738 and died at Newport (buried in the Friend's Burial ground) in March 1826, aged 88 years. Their children were:

- |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 28. i Hannah  | 32. v Anthony Vigneron   |
| 29. ii James  | 33. vi Catherine         |
| 30. iii Peter | 34. vii William Vigneron |
| 31. iv Mary   | 35. viii Stephen         |

9. Stephen 1st died while young.

10. Stephen 2nd succeeded his father in the practice of Physic at Newport; born Nov. 25th, 1748, died on board the Prison ship Jersey at New York of putrid fever Aug. 24, 1781 in the 33rd year of his age—never married.<sup>1</sup>

11. Susy 1st, born 1750, died at the age of 18 months.

12. John, born January 21, 1750, died at Montego Bay, in Jamaica on a voyage with Capt. James Potter in the beginning of Feb'y, 1769, in the 19th year of his age, never married.

13. William, born January 2, 1755, by occupation a mariner, died, and was buried at the Isle of France.

14. Walter 1st died while young.

15. Walter 2nd was born July 17, 1759, and died at Philadelphia in the service of the United States, as orderly in Col. Christopher Olney's Regiment, on the 3d of January 1782, aged 22 years, 5 months, 16 days, never married.

16. Susy 2nd, born June 12, 1762 died Saturday, Oct. 8, 1763, aged 1 year, 2 mos. 26 days.

28. Hannah, born 17th Dec. 1765; died at Newport 29th of Nov. 1785, aged 20 years - never married.

---

<sup>1</sup>See account in Newport Hist. Mag. III, 95.

29. James, born 13th of October. 1767, by occupation a joiner; died at Batavia 18th May 1798 - not married.

30. Peter, born 26th Jan'y 1770, by occupation a Mariner; died at Marseilles 14th Sept. 1801, aged 31½ years - never married.

31. Mary, born 18 June 1772, died at Newport 8th of March 1786, aged 13 years - never married.

32. Anthony Vigneron born 30th Dec. 1774, died at Newport 18——, married Martha, daughter of Benjamin and Martha Cornell, born 16 Oct. 1788.

Their children were:

- 36. i James 1st.
- 37. ii James Peter
- 38. iii Mary Hannah
- 39. iv Martha Wilbour.

33. Catherine born 23rd May 1777, died at Newport, married Benedict Dayton, born at Wickford Dec. 1776; died at sea, 2nd May 1832 aged 55½ years.

Their children were:

- 40. i Catherine
- 41. ii Benedict 1st
- 42. iii Benedict 2nd
- 43. iv Mary
- 44. v Harriet

34. Wm. Vigneron, born Apr. 11th 1780, died at Newport 11th Feb'y 1858, aged 78 years. He married on Dec. 31, 1810, Abby, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth White, born March 26th 1786; died at Newport June 18, 1869.

Their children were:

- 45. i William Rogers
- 46. ii Mary Vigneron
- 47. iii Oliver Perry
- 48. iv James Thomas
- 49. v Harriet Hamilton
- 50. vi Elizabeth White
- 51. vii Oliver Hazard Perry



35. Stephen, born 2nd January 1803: died at Dartmouth, Mass., married Sarah, daughter of William Wood of Dartmouth,

Their children were:

- |                      |                            |         |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| 52. i William Wood   | 56. v Sarah 1st            | } twins |
| 53. ii Rebecca       | 57. vi Catherine           |         |
| 54. iii James        | 58. vii Sarah 2nd          |         |
| 55. iv Mary Vigneron | 59. viii George Washington |         |

44. Harriet Dayton, daughter of Catharine Taylor and Benedict Dayton, married Parmenas Skinner, son of Richard and Martha (Bailey) Skinner.

## The Big Gale at Block Island

*Contributed by* GEORGE R. BURGESS

### A NOTE OF ATTENTION

On the 23 Day of September A. D. 1815 we experienced a Seviar gale of Wind from the S. E. which came on in the morning and Continued to increase untill 11 a Clock A. M. Carrying all Before it, which threatned a total Desolution to all Buildings of every kind: Blew down houses, barns, Cribs, tug houses, lentures, [not sure of this word] and Outhouses and Onrooft others: haystacks, granestacks, Cap of a windmill and the Armes of others, stone walls and Fences it laid Prostrate, Attended with a high tide and heavy surf, which Devided the Island in twelve parts, destroyed Boates Cask, and everything that came in its way, Blew in windows and glass, And two persons belonging to the Island ware Drowned. Mr. Edward H. Gorton a man much respected who has left a widow and one Son to lament his untimely loss and Mrs. Martha Mott, a young lady [page 4] yong lady of a fare Carrector and Amiable manners, at Stoningtown by means of the house she was in being swept of into the Harbour, and two other woman and one child; And from the Contanant we heare of greator And more Seveare losses Sustained in Consequence of the Seveare gale. And high tide: Six Persons

were drowned at Point Judith Mr. William Knowles and Son a man of fare Carrector and much Respected; who has left a widow to lament his untimely loss.

Attest Edw. Sands Town Clerk (N. S. Rec. Book 7, p. 3).

## George Annable, Sculptor

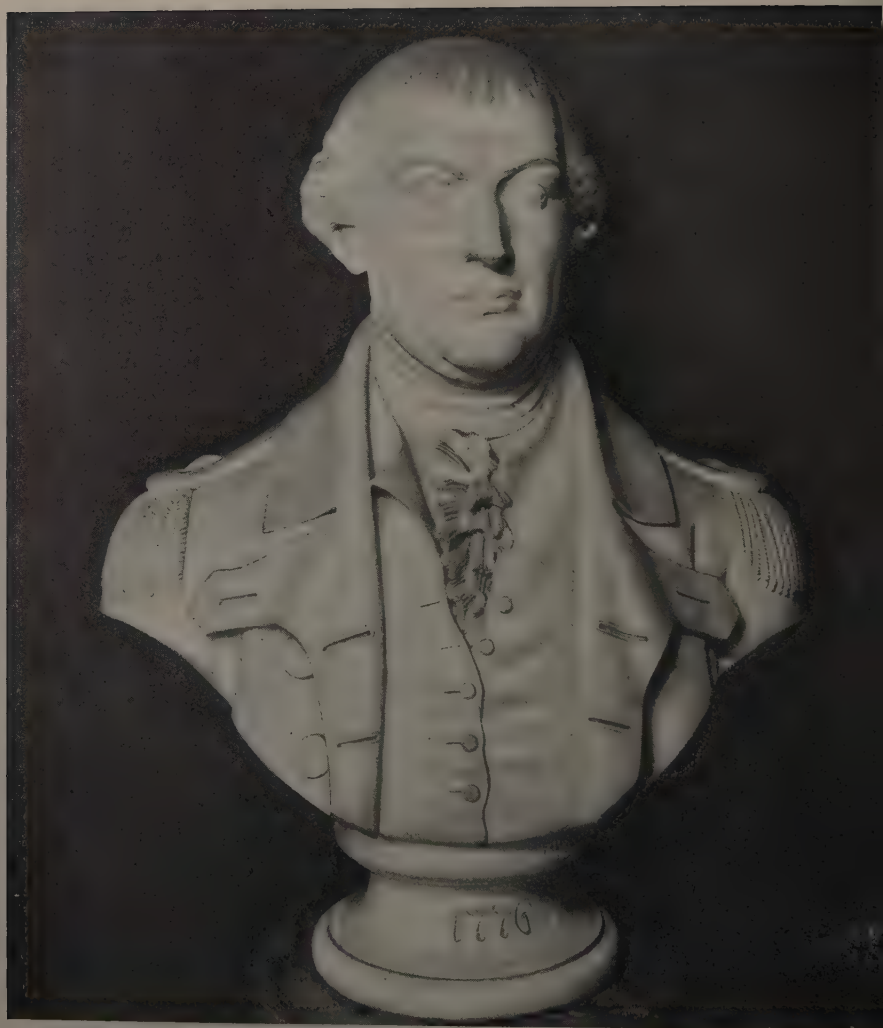
By HOWARD M. CHAPIN

A local Providence sculptor, who perhaps deserves more attention than he has hitherto received is George Oliver Annable, who was born about the year 1829, the son of Jeremiah and Mary B. Annable. According to John Nelson Arnold, the grand old Providence artist, who recorded the achievements of his colleagues in his *Arts and Artists in Rhode Island*, Annable, who did not care to follow his father's business of boot-making, "learned the trade of marble carving from Tingley on South Main Street." In this respect Annable resembled Charles Hemenway and Frederic S. Batcheller, two other local sculptors, whose early training was under Tingley. It will be remembered that for a great many years Tingley was the leading gravestone cutter in Providence.

Arnold, who was well acquainted with Annable, has left us the following account of him:

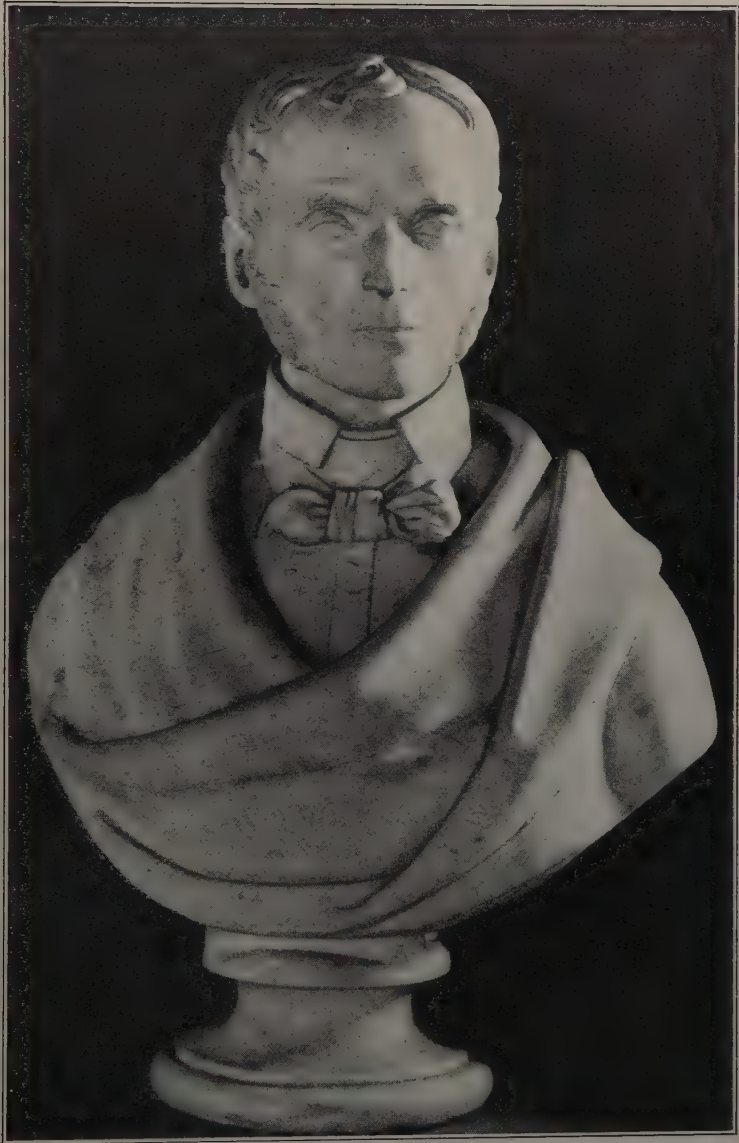
"Annable in the fifties, made a success in portrait cameo cutting, and soon began to model busts, succeeding so well that he had orders for some in marble those of General Greene and Judge Pitman in the Athenaeum being good examples of his work, also the plaster bust of Dr. Wayland, belonging to the Historical Society, which was modeled from life. For a few years he was kept fully employed.

"He had a wonderful talent for getting a likeness, having an accurate eye for form, and he easily seized the characteristic expression of his patrons. But his ambition was to become a painter, and disregarding the remonstrances of his friends, he dropped clay, modeling tool and chisel,



Marble bust of Nathanael Greene (by Annable).

*In Providence Athenaeum.*



Marble bust of John B. H. Leonard (by Annable).

*In the Rhode Island Historical Society Museum.*



which he had shown signal ability to handle, for the brush, color and canvas, for which he was wholly unfitted, and complete failure was the result. It was one of the most deplorable cases of misapplied ambition I ever knew."

We are not particularly concerned with Annable's experiments in painting, but his earlier work in relief is of much interest.

While it is true, as Arnold tells us, that Annable learned the trade and technique of marble cutting from Tingley, he studied drawing under Louise Value Chapin, and learned from her not only delicacy of design but also that artistic appreciation and expression which is so characteristic of his cameo portraits.

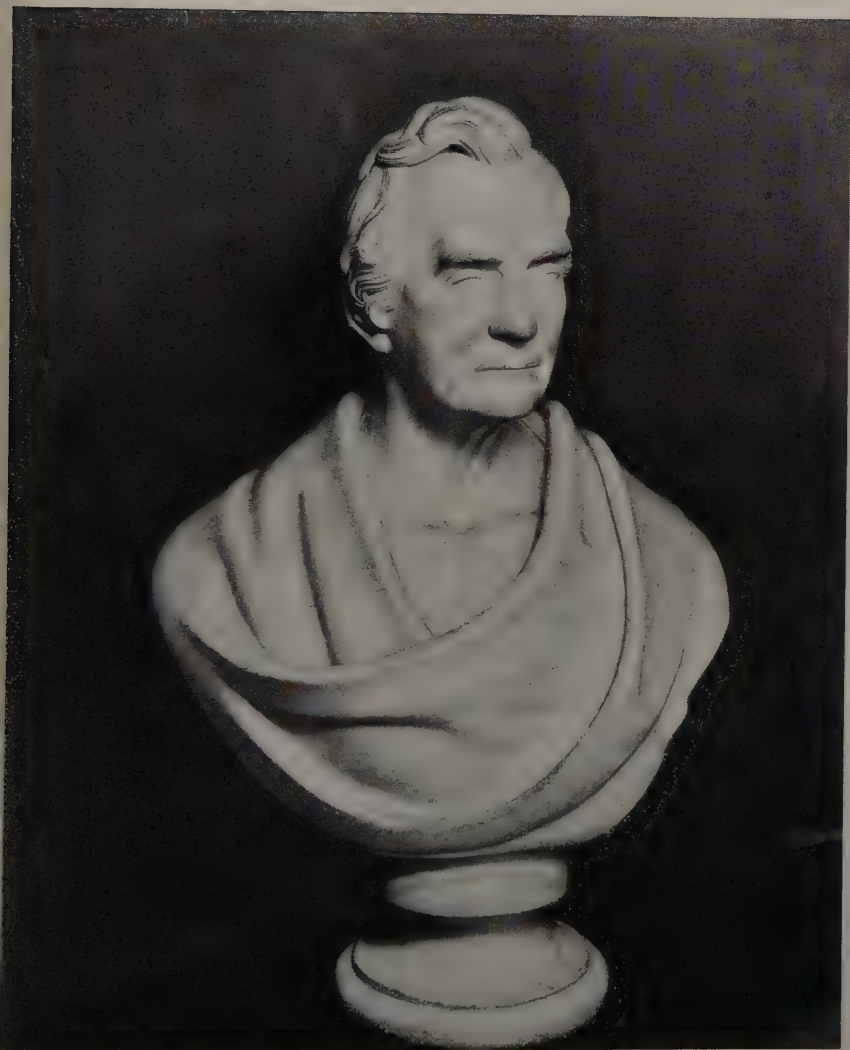
Annable opened a studio in the Franklin House in Providence about 1850 and subsequently removed to the Hoppin Building. In 1850 he cut a cameo portrait of Dr. Nathan B. Crocker, the rector of St. John's Church.

The *Providence Journal* for January 18, 1851, gives us a contemporary appreciation of Annable and his work.

"Annable is dreaming of Italy and languishing for commissions which would put him in possession of the means to go there to study. Meanwhile he is not idle, but is giving renewed demonstration of his genius for art by some highly successful specimens of cameo cutting. The last and best we have seen is a spirited copy of the truly clerical head of the Rector of St. John's—a most excellent likeness. The sharpness of outline, and the smoothness and delicacy of finish of this little work is really admirable."

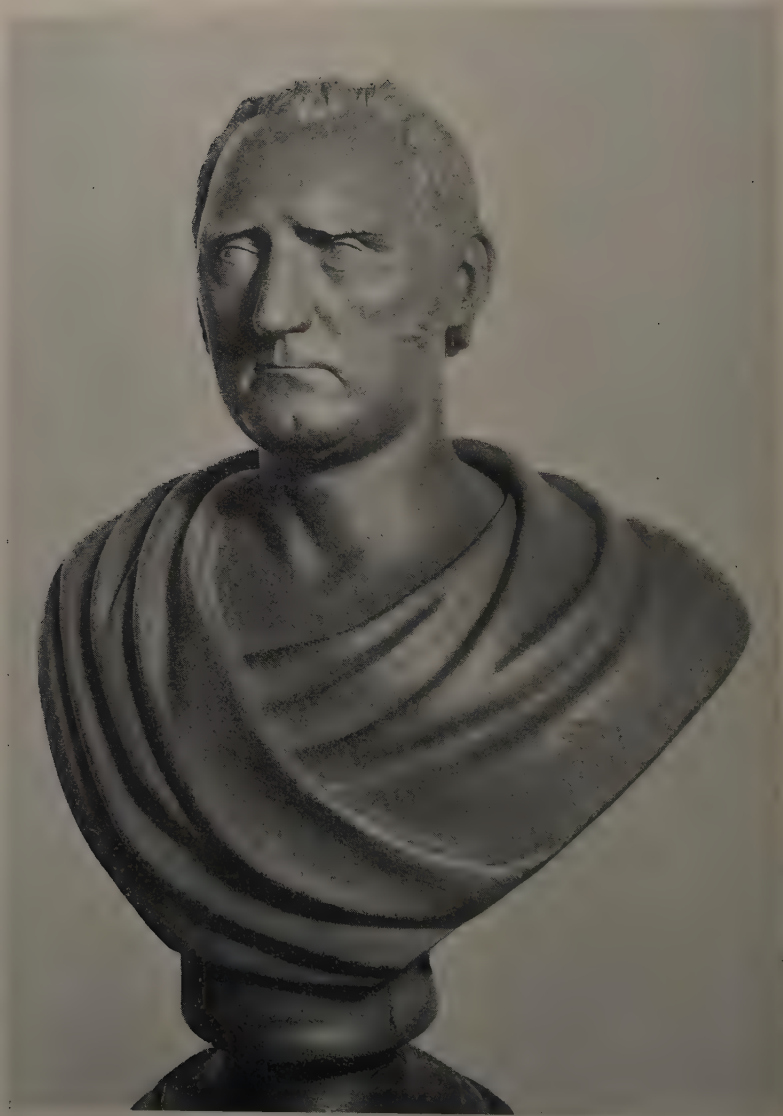
Cameo portraiture or the cutting of portraits in cameo is an art that flourished for only a very short time in the United States, most of the American portrait cameos being cut between 1840 and 1860. Annable's cameos stand very favorable comparison with the work of his contemporaries, and he certainly ranks high in this unusual field.

Four other artists, William Morris Hunt, John C. King, Margaret Foley and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, are known to have cut cameo portraits in America about this time.



Marble bust of John Pitman (by Annable).

*In Providence Athenaeum.*



Plaster bust of Francis Wayland (by Annable).

*In the Rhode Island Historical Society Museum.*



Cameo portrait of Thomas J. Stead of Providence, cut by Annable and inscribed, "T. J. S. to F. E. Stead Feb 28, 1854."

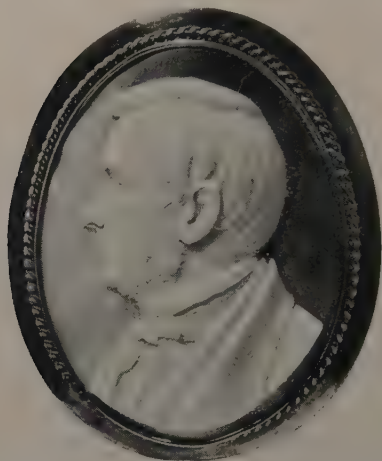
*Owned by Miss D. Elizabeth Potter.*



Cameo portrait of Benjamin B. Adams, cut by Annable.

*Owned by Mrs. Walter S. Hackney.*





Cameo portrait of Rev. James N. Granger of Providence, ascribed to Annable.

*In the Rhode Island  
Historical Society Museum*

At the exhibition held in 1851 by the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, George O. Annable received the highest prize, ten dollars, for "Medallions and cameos, likenesses, very truthful, and also exhibiting a very commendable progress in the art." The printed report of the Society contains this note:

"With respect to the medallion heads and cameos by Mr. George O. Annable, of Providence, the committee heartily concur in the general expression of opinion. They are excellent and considering the youth of the artist and the short time which has passed since his first work was produced remarkably so."

The cameos exhibited by Annable were described in 1853 as "capital likenesses and finely executed." At this exhibition he received "a silver medal, the highest premium, for portrait busts in marble and cameos."

In appreciation of the instruction and assistance he had received from Mrs. Chapin, he cut her portrait in shell cameo and also cut a portrait of her husband, as a compan-



Cameo portraits of Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Chapin, cut by Annable about 1850.

*Owned by H. M. Chapin.*

ion piece. He cut a cameo portrait of James S. Lincoln, then the most popular painter of oil portraits in Providence, and in return Lincoln painted Annable's portrait in oils. Annable's cameo portraits, like those of his American contemporaries, were cut in shell, usually a light brown shell, and were generally about an inch and a half tall.

In addition to the four cameo portraits already mentioned, Annable cut in cameo portraits of Thomas J. Stead and Benjamin B. Adams. He probably cut the cameo portrait of the Rev. James N. Granger, and is said to have also cut one of Judge John Pitman, although perhaps this reference really refers to the marble bust.

In addition to the busts in marble and plaster, mentioned by Arnold, Annable modeled a plaster medallion of the Rev. E. B. Hall in 1852 and cut a marble bust of John B. H. Leonard, which is now in the museum of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

The Report of the Vice-President of the Providence Athenaeum, made September 26, 1853, contains a brief item in regard to the bust of Judge Pitman:

"A new ornament to our library room will be noticed at the present meeting of the proprietors—a marble bust of

the President of the Corporation. In this first work of the kind belonging to the Institution, it is pleasant to see so well embodied the features of one who has been from the foundation of the Athenaeum its honored head. This bust is by our young townsman, George O. Annable, of whom it is but faint praise to say that he has thus far fully justified the strong confidence entertained of his genius for art. It was commissioned from the artist by a number of friends of the Athenaeum, and it is but justice to add, that the project in its commencement owed much to the exertions of the Vice President of this Institution by whom the work has been presented in behalf of the subscribers."

The bust bears the inscription, "G. O. Annable Sculp't Sept. 1853."

The Greene bust bears the following inscriptions: "Gen. Nathaniel Greene 1776," on the front, and on the back, "Gen'l Nathaniel Greene after Peel pinxit, Medal of 1781. Geo. Annable, Sc. 1855."

Annable was, unfortunately, not satisfied with his phenomenal success in sculpture, but was ambitious to paint. Arnold comments in regard to him:

"With the money he earned he passed four years in Europe, studying earnestly and industriously in the best schools of the day—was with Rothermel, the Philadelphia artist, who had a studio in Paris, and later was in Rome with William Page, who was at one time president of the National Academy, yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, after his return, I can recall nothing of his work, of any special interest, in all the years preceding his death."

Annable married Miss Jane M. Tripp in Providence on June 2, 1863, and died in Brooklyn, N. Y., April 22, 1887. The funeral services were held at the Church of the Pilgrims, Henry and Remson Streets, on Monday, April 25, at 3 P. M., and the interment took place at the North Burial Ground in Providence at 10 A. M. on Tuesday, April 26.





